

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 /054 W
-----016483 041003Z /13

O P 040910Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7804
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
DIRNSA FT MEADE MD IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOS

SITREP 25

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

1. KABUL REMAINS CALM AS OF 1200HOURS MAY 4. MOST HEAVY
MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CENTER OF CITY,
ALTHOUGH TANKS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY KEY POSITIONS NEAR RADIO
AFGHANISTAN, THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, KEY INTERSECTIONS,
AND PRINCIPAL ROUTES INTO KABUL. ARMED SOLDIERS CONTINUE
TO PATROL IMPORTANT INTERSECTIONS AND TO GUARD GOVERNMENT
BUILDINGS.

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2. WE HAVE NOTICED A VASTLY INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF
SUBSTANTIVE EMBASSY OFFICERS. THESE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED
BY TAXIS WITH WHIPLASH ANTENNAS, AND THEIR HOUSES ARE BEING
WATCHED. "STATIC SURVEILLANCE" TEAMS IN PARKED CARS WITH RADIOS
HAVE ALSO BEEN OBSERVED.

3. ON MAY 3 MEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES TOOK UP STATIONS IN

FRONT OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES, TAKING LICENSE NUMBERS OF ENTERING AND DEPARTING AUTOMOBILES. ONE MAN IN FRONT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY ADMITTED TO BEING A KHALQ MEMBER.

4. ALTHOUGH THE TORKHAM LAND BORDER WITH PAKISTAN WAS OPEN MAY 3, THE LIMITATION ON TRAVEL OF OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS TO KABUL PROVINCE APPARENTLY REMAINS IN EFFECT. A TEAM OF CANADIAN CONTRACTORS WORKING IN BAGHLAN RECEIVED PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES THERE ON MAY 3, BUT THE PERMIT WAS RECALLED ON THE MORNING OF MAY 4. AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES ARE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FRENCH VEHICLES, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF NEWS REPORTS DURING THE COUP THAT REFUGEES ENTERED THE FRENCH COMPOUND OR BECAUSE A FRENCH TV TEAM FILMED AN INTERVIEW WITH A HIGH AFGHAN OFFICIAL YESTERDAY AND THEY DO NOT WANT THE FILM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

5. A NEW, "SECRET SECTION" HAS APPARENTLY BEEN FORMED WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ITS CHIEF, DR. MOHAMMAD AKBAR MEHR IS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE CONSULAR AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE MFA, REPORTEDLY HAS LEFTIST POLITICAL VIEWS AND SEEMS TO HAVE THE LAST WORD ON EXIT VISAS, PASSPORTS AND OTHER SIMILAR MATTERS.

6. THE WIFE OF AN AID OFFICIAL AND HER LOCAL AID DRIVER WERE DETAINED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR APPROXIMATELY NINETY MINUTES ON MAY 3. THEY HAD BEEN DRIVING IN AN AID VEHICLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WAS THOROUGHLY SEARCHED, POSSIBLY FOR A RADIO (WHICH IT DID NOT HAVE). UPON THEIR RELEASE, THE AFGHAN EMPLOYEE WAS TOLD " NEVER DRIVE THAT VEHICLE AGAIN".

7. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 4, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS IN WRITING FOR A POSSIBLE PRESS

CONFERENCE WITH THE NEW REGIME'S LEADERSHIP. WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT TARAKI MIGHT MEET WITH THEM ON MAY 5 OR 6.

8. WEST GERMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK BY THE NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. WEST GERMAN POLICE ADVISORS FOR THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY CRIMINAL POLICE CHIEF YAQUBI (WHOM GERMANS DESCRIBE AS APPEARING "SATISFIED" BY THE OUTCOME OF THE REVOLUTION) TO "WAIT AT HOME". THE TWO GERMAN UN NARCOTICS ADVISORS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THEIR DUTIES IN THAT SAME MINISTRY, HOWEVER.

9. JAPANESE TV EXPERTS HERE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY RADIO AFGHAN-ISTAN TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK.

10. THE SOUTHSKOREAN AMBASSADOR WENT TO THE CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY ON MAY 3 TO ASK FOR LANDING RIGHTS FOR A KOREAN
AIRLINES CHARTER FLIGHT BRINGING IN ONE THOUSAND TV SETS.
PERMISSION WAS GRANTED IN LESS THAN THREE HOURS.

1. AS THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR REMARKED ON MAY 3, "PRAGMATISM
APPEARS TO BE TAKING PRECEDENCE OVER THEORY."
ELIOT

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